Conference of the ICAA on security problems at the Airports

1460. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of the International Civil Airports Association for Asia (ICAA) and Pacific region, at its meeting in December, 1987, had made a number of suggestions regarding the problem of security at the Airports, human resource development and obtaining revenue from non-conventional sources; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken by the Government on the same?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) and (b) The ICAA Conference had decided to form three Committees on Security, Commercial Activities and Personal Management & Training to identify the problems of Asia/Pacific Region and make suitable recommendations. These Committees are yet to start their work.

Nalanda Institute for Higher Studies and Research

1461. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the declining standards of Nalanda Institute for Higher Studies and Research resulting in the sharp decline in students from foreign countries; and

(b) whether Government have made any assessment of the working of the institute, if so, what is the outcome thereof, stating the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, the institution known by the name of Nalanda Institute for Higher Studies and Research is neither a university nor an institution deemed to be university nor a college affiliated to a university. The Government have no information about the working of this institute.

(b) Does not arise.

Imported helicopters lying idle

1462. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several helicopters imported at a huge cost are lying idle for lack of demand from the States as well as the Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Helicopter Corporation of India has been asked to deploy these aircraft more effectively;

(c) whether it is also a fact that orders for some more helicopters have been placed with the Westland of U.K. which are yet to be received;

(d) if so, what are the details of these helicopters; and

(e) what is the total expenditure involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) On a standard norm of 80 per cent serviceability, Pawan Hans Ltd. should deploy 34 helicopters of the 42 helicopters acquired. Of these, the number of helicopters deployed and those expected to be deployed shortly is 29.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Declining academic standards at Vishva-Bharati University

1463. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that academic excellence of the Vishva-Bharati University at Shantiniketan is on the decline;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Vishva-Bharati University is infested with a host of vested interests which are proving a drag on its growth and attainment of high standards; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take or are taking to rejuvenate this prestigious institution of learning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) The special programmes of studies and research offered by the Vishva-Bharati University specially by Kala Bhavana and Sangeet Bhavan, continue to attract talented students from all parts of the country and abroad.

Government are not aware about the influence of vested interests proving a drag on the growth and attainment of high standards in Visva-Bharati.

(c) The steps being taken to preserve and enrich the character of the University and to maintain a high level of excellence include:

(i) Attracting meritorious students from different parts of the country and abroad;

(ii) Organisation of a larger number of national and international seminars, conferences and workshops;

(iii) Strengthening of co-curricular activities including cultural functions, community activities, closer relationship and interaction with surrounding areas, etc.;

(iv) Strengthening the Sangeet Bhavana, Kala Bhavana, Rabindra Bhavana, Palli Shiksha Bhavana, Palli Sangathan Vibhaga, etc. and introduction of new programmes in them.

I.I.T. in Assam

1464. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1174 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th August, 1987 and state:

(a) by when Indian Institute of Technology is likely to become operational in Assam; and

(b) what are the various courses of study which this Institute is going to offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) A project team of experts has been constituted and a full-time Project Director appointed to prepare a Detailed Project Report for the proposed Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) to be set up in Assam. It is premature at this stage to indicate precisely when the IIT will become operational and what courses it will offer.

Discovery of Inscriptions on Narsingha Temple of Puri in Orissa

1465. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN